



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**RICHMOND MAN SENTENCED FOR IDENTIFICATION FRAUD  
AND COUNTERFEITING ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS**

**(Richmond, VA)** – Ronald Estuardo Paniagua-Martinez, age 39, of Richmond, Virginia, was sentenced today to 24 months of imprisonment following his conviction on charges of identification fraud and counterfeiting alien registration cards. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and Jane P. Murphy, Special Agent-In-Charge, Secret Service, Richmond Field Office, announced the sentencing.

Paniagua-Martinez pled guilty on January 19, 2006, admitting that he had manufactured and sold counterfeit United States identification documents at his residence, located at 3136 Snead Court, Richmond, Virginia. Investigators made several controlled purchases of fraudulent Social Security Cards, United States Resident Alien Cards, and fraudulent Mexican identification documents from Paniagua-Martinez prior to his arrest. During a search of Paniagua-Martinez's residence, agents recovered numerous fraudulent documents, as well as equipment used by Paniagua-Martinez to produce the documents, including a printer, digital camera, and laminating machine. Paniagua-Martinez admitted that, prior to his arrest, he was selling approximately 13-20 fraudulent documents per day to undocumented workers living in the Richmond area.

As a condition of his plea, Paniagua-Martinez will forfeit the equipment used to manufacture the fraudulent documents as well as proceeds from the illegal sales. Paniagua-Martinez also consented to removal from the United States upon completion of his term of incarceration.

The investigation was conducted by members of the Metro-Richmond Fraud and Identity Theft Task Force. The Task Force was formed in October 2004 to address the growing problem of identity theft and related crimes in the metro Richmond area. The Federal, state and local agencies participating in the Task Force on a full-time basis are: U.S. Treasury Inspector General, Office of Investigations; United States Postal Inspection Service; United States Secret

Service; Richmond Police Department; and Henrico Police Department. For information on the task force, including assistance for victims of identity theft, visit:

[www.fraudandidentitythefttaskforce.com](http://www.fraudandidentitythefttaskforce.com).

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney G. Wingate Grant.

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